

determining if a condition associated with a received action requires generation of an information message;

selecting an information message to be generated corresponding to said condition;

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identifying a target object associated with the action performed by the user, to which the information contained within the notification message relates; and

displaying a notification object, which indicates the target object and contains said information message corresponding to said condition, in a persistent manner until dismissed by a user while enabling the user to continue interaction with an application program corresponding to said target.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification object enables a user to interact with application programs other than the application program corresponding to said target, while said object is being displayed.

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18. (Amended) A system for notifying a computer user of a computer information message, comprising:

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means for receiving an action performed on a computer by a user;

means for determining if the received action requires generation of a computer information message;

means for selecting a computer information message to be generated corresponding to said action performed by the user;

means for locating a target object corresponding to the action performed by the user, to which the information contained within the notification message relates; and

means for displaying a persistent, non-modal notification object which indicates the target object, contains said information message corresponding to said target object, is persistent until dismissed by the user, and enables continued interaction by the user with the target while the object is being displayed.

19. (Amended) A graphical user interface element for providing a user with information regarding a computer application being executed, comprising a persistent, non-modal notification object containing information relating to a target within said computer application and an indication mechanism which forms part of said object and points to the target with which the computer notification object is associated.

26. (Amended) A computer program stored in a computer-readable medium which executes the following steps:

receiving an action performed on a computer by a user;
determining if the received action requires generation of an information message;
selecting an information message to be generated corresponding to said action performed by the user;

locating a target object corresponding to the action performed by the user, to which the information contained within the information message relates; and

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displaying a notification object which indicates the target and contains said
information message corresponding to said target object;
wherein said displayed notification object is persistent until dismissed by the user;
and
wherein said notification object is non-modal and enables the user to continue
interaction with an application program corresponding to said target while said object is
being displayed.

Kindly ~~add~~ the following new claim:

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27. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
receiving an action performed on a computer by a user;
wherein said step of determining is performed on the action received in said step of
receiving.
